SENATE BILL No. 443

Introduced by Committee on Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments (Senators Bowen (Chair), Battin, Dunn, Murray, Poochigian, and Romero)

## February 17, 2005

An act to amend Sections 4002, 4004, 4108, and 10510 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 443, as introduced, Committee on Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments. Elections.

Existing law sets forth the procedures for declaring candidacy for a district office, including the availability of forms and the dates on which the declarations of candidacy are due to the county elections official.

This bill would prohibit a person from filing nomination papers for more than one district office or term of office for the same district at the same election.

This bill would make corrections to erroneous cross references.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 4002 of the Elections Code is amended 2 to read:
- 3 4002. Notwithstanding Section 4000, a special district may
- 4 conduct its elections by mail in accordance with Sections—1501,
- 5 <del>1502,</del> 1500, 4104, 4105, and 4108.

read:

6 SEC. 2. Section 4004 of the Elections Code is amended to

 $SB 443 \qquad \qquad -2-$ 

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4004. (a) "Small city" means a city with a population of 100,000 or less, as determined by the annual city total population rankings by the Demographic Research Unit of the Department of Finance.

- (b) "Eligible entity" means a school district or a special district.
- (c) Notwithstanding Sections—1502 1500 and 4000, an election in a small city or an eligible entity may be conducted wholly as an all-mail ballot election, subject to the following conditions:
- (1) The legislative body of the small city or the governing body of the eligible entity, by resolution, authorizes the use of mailed ballots for the election.
- (2) The election is a special election to fill a vacancy in the legislative body or governing body.
- (3) The election is not held on the same date as a statewide primary or general election.
  - (4) The election is not consolidated with any other election.
- (5) The return of voted mail ballots is subject to Section 3017. SEC. 3. Section 4108 of the Elections Code is amended to read:
- 4108. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law and regardless of the number of eligible voters within its boundaries a district may, by resolution of its governing board, conduct any election by all-mailed ballots pursuant to Division 4 (commencing with Section 4000).

An election conducted pursuant to this section shall be held on a date prescribed in Section—1501 1500 or on any other date other than an established election date.

SEC. 4. Section 10510 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

10510. (a) Forms for declarations of candidacy for all district offices shall be obtained from the office of the county elections official. The county elections official may, for convenience or necessity, authorize the district secretary to issue declarations of candidacy. The forms shall first be available on the 113th day prior to the general district election and shall be filed not later than 5 p.m. on the 88th day prior to the general district election in the office of the county elections official during regular office hours or may be filed by certified mail so that the forms reach the office of the county election official no later than the deadline for

\_3\_ SB 443

filing in that office. The county elections official shall record the date of filing upon the first page of each declaration of candidacy filed pursuant to this section. No candidate shall withdraw his or her declaration of candidacy after 5 p.m. on the 88th day prior to the general district election.

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- (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person shall not file nomination papers for more than one district office or term of office for the same district at the same election.
- (c) On request of the district secretary, the county elections official shall provide the secretary with a copy of each declaration of candidacy filed pursuant to this section.